I CLAIM:

1. A convertible cane assembly comprising a pair of walking canes each having an upright support providing an exterior, a first foot adjacent a lower end of the support and a first handle adjacent an upper end of the support allowing the canes to be used separately, and a connector securing the canes together in a position wherein the support exteriors are in side-by-side relation and the assembly provides a second handle for grasping by the user and a second foot for contacting an underlying surface.

2. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein each first foot comprises an resilient pad.

3. The convertible cane of claim 2 wherein the resilient pad is at least half of the cross-sectional area of the support.

4. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the first feet, in the side-by-side position of the supports, provide a pair of flat surfaces defining a single plane and thereby provide the second foot.

5. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the first handles, in the side-by-side position of the support exteriors, provide the second handle.

6. The convertible cane of claim 5 wherein the second handle provides a hand receiving section having a curved upper surface, the hand receiving section being not more than about 3" in width.

7. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the first handles, in the side-by-side position of the support exteriors, are spaced apart and one of the first handles comprises the second handle.

8. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the first resilient feet comprise a rubber pad.

9. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the connector comprises a hook-and-loop fastener on the canes.

10. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the connector comprises a key hole slot on one of the canes and a headed pin on the other cane, friction between the pin and slot acting to resist relative vertical movement between the canes.

11. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the connector comprises a protuberance fixed to a first cane at an acute angle and a second cane provides a passage receiving the protuberance and further comprising a latch selectively preventing horizontal movement of the first and second canes.

12. The convertible cane of claim 11 wherein the protuberance comprises a peg.

13. The convertible cane of claim 1 wherein the connector a slot on each of the canes which mate in the position wherein the support exteriors are in side-by-side relation and a pivoted tab for movement between a first position residing in both slots and a second position outside at least one of the slots.

14. The convertible cane of claim 1 further comprising a second connector, independent of and substantially more difficult to operate than the first mentioned connector, for securing the canes together.

15. The convertible cane of claim 14 wherein the second connector comprises a fastener comprising a threaded shank and a threaded nut.

16. A convertible cane assembly comprising a pair of walking canes each having an upright support providing an exterior, a first foot adjacent a lower end of the support and a first handle adjacent an upper end of the support allowing the canes to be used separately, and means connecting the canes together in a side-by-side position where the support exteriors are in facing relation so the assembly acts as a single cane providing a second handle for grasping by a user's hand and a second resilient foot for contacting an underlying surface.

17. The convertible cane of claim 16 wherein the first feet, in the side-by-side position of the support exteriors, provide a pair of flat surfaces defining a single plane and thereby provide the second foot.

18. The convertible cane of claim 16 wherein the first handles, in the side-by-side position of the supports, provide the second handle.

19. The convertible cane of claim 16 wherein the first handles, in the side-by-side position of the support exteriors, are spaced apart and one of the first handles comprises the second handle.

20. A method of using a convertible cane assembly of the type having a pair of walking canes each having an upright support providing an exterior, a foot adjacent a lower end of the support and a first handle adjacent an upper end of the support allowing each handle to be grasped by a user's hand, the method comprising

attaching the canes in side-by-side relation where the support exteriors are in facing relation to provide a single cane and using the single cane as a walking aid; and

detaching the canes from the side-by-side relation and using the canes separately and simultaneously as walking aids.

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